



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

MAR 20 2008

Reply To  
Attn Of: AWT-107

Johnny Aiken  
Director, Planning Department  
North Slope Borough  
P.O. Box 69  
Barrow, Alaska 99723

Re: Proposed Air Permit R10OCS-AK-07-01 (revised) – Request to Extend the Public Comment Period

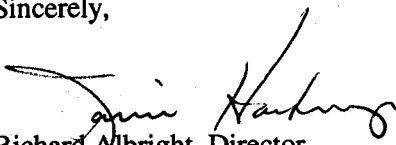
Dear Mr. Aiken:

Thank you for your March 18, 2008 letter requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) extend the public comment period an additional 30-days for our preliminary decision to issue an air quality permit to Shell Offshore, Inc. Your request is based on the fact that the current timeline allows only two working days after the last public hearing to submit comments. The published public comment period for this preliminary permit action began on February 25, 2008, and is scheduled to conclude on April 1, 2008. This 36-day public comment period is longer than the 30-day public comment period required under Title 40, Part 124 of the Code of Federal Regulations – EPA Procedures for Decision Making.

EPA is denying your request to extend the public comment period. While we appreciate your concerns and the points you raise, we are balancing competing interests and believe it is in the overall best interest to remain with the existing 36-day public comment period. Accordingly, the public comment period will close on April 1, 2008. Written comments must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2008. We encourage all interested parties to participate in the decision making process as we proceed through the comment period. The EPA is committed to carefully considering all comments that we receive before making a final decision on the permit.

I anticipate that there will be additional project proposals on the North Slope in the future. I welcome the opportunity to work with residents throughout the North Slope Borough to continue crafting a public involvement process that closely reflects the local communities' needs and look forward to working with you in this regard.

Sincerely,

  
Richard Albright, Director  
Office of Air, Waste and Toxics

cc: Bessie O'Rourke, NSB Law Department  
Taquik Hepa, NSB Wildlife Department  
Karla Kolash, NSB Mayors Special Assistant  
Barrett Ristorph, NSB Law Department